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If you believe you are eligible to vote and encounter difficulty registering, please contact the Elections Division of the Oregon Secretary of State:

Secretary of State  
Elections Division  
141 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97310  
(503) 986-1518 (voice)  
[www.sos.state.or.us](http://www.sos.state.or.us)

If the Oregon Secretary of State is unable to help you, or to report a problem, contact:

U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Voting Section, Rm. 7254 - NWB  
Washington, D.C. 20530  
(202) 307-2767 (voice)  
(800) 253-3931 (toll-free)  
(202) 307-3961 (fax)  
[www.usdoj.gov/crt](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt)

*This pamphlet is provided for informational purposes only, as an aid to further inquiry. The laws in many states are revised frequently, and may have changed since this pamphlet was issued. It is your responsibility to determine whether you are lawfully eligible to vote, and criminal penalties can result from voting when ineligible or making false statements on a registration form.*

Issued December, 2000

U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division



# Restoring Your Right to Vote



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The right to vote is an important civil right in a democracy as well as a civic responsibility, and yet many persons who have been convicted of a crime do not know whether they are eligible to vote. For both federal and state elections, the right to vote is controlled by the law of the state in which you live. Some states restrict the right to vote for persons who have been convicted of a crime. This pamphlet is intended to help you determine whether you are eligible to vote in the state in which you live, and if so, what steps you must take to be permitted to vote.

### **What law governs whether my felony conviction limits my right to vote?**

The impact of a criminal conviction on the right to vote varies widely from state to state. Whether you can vote after being convicted of a crime is determined by the state in which you live, not the state in which you were convicted.

### **Can I vote while I'm incarcerated in Oregon?**

You cannot vote in Oregon if you are incarcerated as a result of a felony conviction. Your right to vote is suspended from the date of sentencing until you are discharged or paroled, or until the conviction is set aside. You also cannot vote if the court stays the execution of your sentence for any purpose other than probation.

If you are a resident of another state who is temporarily incarcerated in Oregon, you may be able to vote by absentee ballot in your home state. You need to consult the law of your home state regarding both criminal convictions and absentee ballots to see if this is a possibility.

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### **I have been released from incarceration. How do I restore my right to vote?**

Your right to vote is automatically restored upon discharge or parole from imprisonment. The right to vote shall be automatically withdrawn, however, if you are subsequently incarcerated for violation of the terms of your parole.

### **What if my conviction was for a federal crime?**

If you are a resident of Oregon, the same rules apply whether you were convicted of a federal or state crime.

### **What happens if I move to another state?**

If you move to another state, your right to vote will be controlled by the laws of that state.

### **What are Oregon's other voter registration requirements?**

To vote in Oregon, you must be:

- an Oregon resident
- a United States citizen
- 18 years of age or older

### **When do I need to register to vote?**

You may register at any time, but your voter registration card must be postmarked no later than the 21st day before the election in order to vote in that election.

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### **Where do I go to register?**

Registration is available at many places in Oregon, including:

- your county elections office
- the Department of Motor Vehicles
- various public assistance agencies

Contact the county elections office near you to find out which service agencies provide voter registration. You may also register using the mail-in registration form available from your county elections office. Forms are also available online at:

[www.sos.state.or.us/elections/other.info/vreg.htm](http://www.sos.state.or.us/elections/other.info/vreg.htm)